



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

February 13, 1980

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Wayne C. Jaeschke
Vice President-Environmental Services
Stauffer Chemical Company
Westport, Connecticut 06880

Dear Wayne:

Thank you for your letter of January 22nd. I might have replied sooner but had a rather nasty bout with the flu which only just now lets me get back to the office.

I certainly do appreciate your interest, and intellectual, moral and perhaps material support for our efforts in comparative toxicology. Thank you for the lead on Jansen's paper which I will follow up. I did also just receive the report from CIIT that formaldehyde induces nasal carcinomas in rats but not mice; and I hope it will be possible for Goldberg to pursue this beyond the futility of condemning a compound as soon as a positive result is achieved in a single species.

As to Sam Epstein's underlying questions: It is not easy to characterize the distribution of the NCI budget, since so much of the work on cancer is inherently interdisciplinary and cuts across convenient categories. You probably are already very familiar with it but I am enclosing a copy of the recent NCI Fact Book that attempts to give some perspective on the distribution of funds. The NCI program is by no means just research; within the research budget I would suggest that substantially more than 10% goes into "mechanistic studies" but this is far below the level needed to saturate the urgent problems. In fact one serious difficulty is a possible over-reaction on the part of HEW, in the establishment of the National Toxicology Program which now has an enormous budget for the "identification of carcinogens". There are real grounds for skepticism as to the validity of the labels established by current test procedures; and of course they generally end up telling us almost nothing about mechanism or the biological theory of cancer. This is

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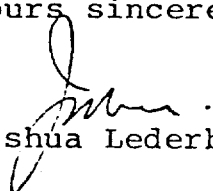
going to receive my most critical attention as I try and dig into understanding just what the National Cancer strategy really is.

I would, of course, be happy to hear from ABC in any way that is convenient to them: if you just let me know where they are located I'd be glad to get the ball rolling with my own telephone call. You mentioned a recent symposium and if there is any summary of that that might be most helpful.

Be all means I look forward to sustaining this dialogue and have been glad to meet a number of people in industrial laboratories who plainly are doing most important work of practical consequence in this field at the present time.

I have a couple of other enclosures for you which you may be interested to hear although I suspect that they are not news to you.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

Encls.